Regional I.T. Training Centres

2507. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a regional I.T. Training Centre in the U.S.A., and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of countries wherein such centres have been established alongwith the purposes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of new Post Offices in Gujarat

2508. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the details of new Post Offices proposed to be opened in Gujarat during the current financial year, location-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): The opening of post offices is an ongoing process Post Offices are opened, subject to fulfilling of pupulation distance and income norms, subject to availability of resources. During the 10th plan new post offices are required to be opened through redeployment of existing manpower resources. The network is also required to be simultaneously rationalised. Therefore new post offices are opened by redeployment of existing manpower and by relocating existing post offices that do not fulfill distance norms.

C.V.C. probe into construction by MTNL

2509. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry through the Central Vigilance Commission has been set-up to probe the expenditure incurred for the Training Centre and for the Hostel constructed by the authority of MTNL;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report of the CVC;

(c) if so, whether any action has been initiated on the receipt of CVC; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. CVC has not set-up any enquiry in the matter relating to the "expenditure curred for the Training Centre and for the Hostel constructed by the authority of MTNL".

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Review of IT Act, 2000

2510. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Expert Panel set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 and were the compulsion of Government to set up this Panel when the Act was promulgated only four years ago;

(b) whether any structural deficiencies in the Act or lack of foresight of variegated issues relating to e-governance and cyber laws, off shoring clients raising questions about India's data-protection laws, etc. at that point of time in 2000; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that all relevant associations/ NGOs etc. are taken into confidence by the Expert Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The terms of reference of the Expert Panel set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

The main objective of the IT Act, 2000 is to promote Electronic Commerce and Electronic Governance through the enabling legislation to legally recognise the electronic media as equivalent of paper based system including cyber security, data protection and cyber crimes.

Electronic Commerce and Electronic Governnance are on-going evolution and as a result of fast developments, there is need to continuously